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Agenda item 20 (b)

STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OR REGIONS

Lesotho: revised draft resolution

Special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The General Assembly,

Noting that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a least developed country with severe economic and social problems arising from its weak economic infrastructure as a result of years of mismanagement,

Noting also that the Democratic Republic of the Congo encounters serious difficulties in sustaining reconstruction and development programmes in spite of the genuine efforts made by its Government,

Deeply concerned about the extensive destruction of life and property, as well as the severe damage to infrastructure, that were inflicted on the Democratic Republic of the Congo as the result of recent events,

Bearing in mind that the Democratic Republic of the Congo also suffers from problems encountered by a country that has received thousands of refugees from neighbouring countries,

Concerned about the continuation of armed confrontation in the Great Lakes region, threatening regional peace and stability, and the attendant displacement of families and interruptions in the process of repatriating refugees,

Taking note of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s,[1] adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 14 September 1990, and the mutual commitment entered into on that occasion,

Convinced that the Democratic Republic of the Congo needs urgent international assistance to rehabilitate and reconstruct its damaged economy,

1. Commends the efforts undertaken by the Government and people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for national rehabilitation and reconstruction;

2. Urgently appeals to all Member States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as international development and financial institutions, to contribute generously, through bilateral or multilateral channels, to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

3. Calls upon regional and interregional organizations and other intergovernmental bodies and non-governmental organizations, as well as international development and financial institutions, to give urgent consideration to the establishment of a programme of assistance for the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

4. Requests the appropriate organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to increase their current and future programmes of assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to cooperate closely with the Secretary-General in organizing an effective international programme of assistance and to report periodically to him on the steps they have taken and the resources they have made available to assist that country;

5. Invites the appropriate organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to bring to the attention of their governing bodies, for their consideration, the special needs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to report the decisions of those bodies to the Secretary-General;

6. Welcomes the efforts of the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations agencies, associated bodies and other humanitarian organizations and agencies, including relevant non-governmental organizations, in assisting the Democratic Republic of the Congo to restore basic services and the infrastructure of the country;

7. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To organize a special emergency assistance programme of financial and material assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to enable it to meet its urgent needs for economic recovery and reconstruction;

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[1] A/CONF.147/18, part one.

(b) To ensure that the necessary financial and budgetary arrangements are made to organize an international programme of assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to mobilize that assistance;

(c) To apprise the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 1998, of the assistance being provided and the progress made in mobilizing assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

(d) To submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a report on the actions taken pursuant to the present resolution;

8. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session, under the item entitled "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance", a sub-item entitled "Special assistance for the economic recovery and reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo".